

REMARKS

By means of the foregoing Amendment Claim 7 has been revised to require an image pickup apparatus having first and second control portions which effect an addition of photoelectric conversion signals of a same color inside and outside of a unit cell including a plurality of photoelectric conversion portions. This corresponds to a first embodiment, line 17 of Page 9 to line 26 of Page 20, of the Specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that this requirement of the present invention is not disclosed by the cited Guidash and Lee patents which were relied upon to reject the claims. For example, Guidash does not disclose the addition of signals of a same color outside of a unit cell. Moreover, in Fig. 3b of Guidash, a signal of each photoelectric conversion portion of the unit cell is read out to the outside (capacitors CSa and CSb) on a row basis. The Guidash patent therefore fails to teach the addition of signals of a same color inside of the unit cell.

The Lee patent discloses in Fig. 2b the reading out signals of photoelectric conversion portions included in a unit cell and then outputting them in parallel through processing circuits 21-24 (Column 3, lines 49-64). Nevertheless, Lee fails to teach the addition of signals of a same color inside of the unit cell as required in amended Claim 7.

For these reasons it is believed that independent Claim 7 is now patentably distinct over the cited references, and that Claim 7 is allowable along with dependent Claims 8-11. Accordingly, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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